

REMARKS

In the Office Action under reply, claims 1-15, 18, 19, 21, and 23-35 are pending and were examined. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's recognition of claims 1-15, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 28, and 30-35 as allowed. Claims 1, 25-27 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as "indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention" (Action at 2). Applicants note that claim 1 is identified as both allowed and rejected. With the amendments set forth herein, applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Specifically, applicants have amended claims 25 and 29. Claim 25 has been amended to change the label " L^3 " to " L^{3A} " in formula (IV). This amendment is necessary to distinguish the linking group found in claim 1 (i.e., L^3 , which refers to a group within R^H) from the linking group shown in formula (IV) of claim 25 (i.e., L^{3A} , which represents a group within the sulfonamide-containing formula (IV)). This amendment is supported by the original specification inasmuch as the skilled artisan would clearly understand that the label L^3 in claim 25 (prior to the amendment herein) represents a different moiety from the label L^3 in claim 1. Accordingly, the amendment merely clarifies the claim language.

Claim 29 has been amended to change the label " L^3 " to " L^{3B} " in formula (VI). This amendment is necessary to distinguish the linking group found in claim 1 (i.e., L^3 , which refers to a group within R^H) from the linking group shown in formula (VI) of claim 29 (i.e., L^{3B} , which represents a group within R^P). This amendment is supported by the original specification inasmuch as the skilled artisan would clearly understand that the label L^3 in claim 29 (prior to the amendment herein) represents a different moiety from the label L^3 in claim 1. Accordingly, the amendment merely clarifies the claim language.

With the amendments to claims 25 and 29, the rejection of claims 1, 25, 26, 27, and 29 is overcome. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the claims of the application are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections, and prompt issuance of a notice of allowance. If the Examiner has any questions concerning this communication, or would like to discuss the application, the art, or other pertinent matters, a telephone call to the undersigned would be welcomed.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____

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